

Minutes of the regular meeting of CHC Board of Directors, February 26, 2008

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: All Programs except (number in parentheses indicate absences including this evening): Grn. Blues (2); Middlesex (2); Salisbury (7); Southeastern (1); West Hartford (2) and Yale (2). The attendance log, reflecting tonight's attendance, is made as an attachment to the minutes.

Board Officers Present: President, Mike Meakem; Secretary: Glenn Van Moffaert

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia; Eligibility Chairperson (District I Commissioner), Kathy Ludwig; District-III, Barry Zalcman; District-IV Commissioner Glenn Van Moffaert; Tournament Committee Chairperson, Brian Oatway; Squirt Coordinator Erik Sunquist; PeeWee Coordinator, Bruce Buckholz; Women's Coordinator, Carolyn Holt and Jacqueline DiNuccio; Girls' Hockey, Joe Dymarczyk.

USA Hockey Appointees (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia

USA Hockey Officials (non-voting) present: none

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The January minutes were accepted.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The offices of President and Treasurer are slated to be voted upon at the April Annual Meeting. These offices have two (2) year terms. In accordance with the Bylaws, Mike Meakem appointed Brian Oatway, Tom Blackwell and David Landino, to serve as the Nominating Committee and charged them to actively solicit from the Member Programs nominations of names of candidates for election to Officer positions. The election shall take place at the Annual Meeting, and nominations from the floor will also be taken at that time. To date, Mike Meakem has been nominated for the position of President. Mike Federico was nominated for Treasurer.

REPORTS

President (Mike Meakem)

Sadly to open with a report that a Trumbull mother is accused of retaliating against a 10-year-old boy who bumped her son during a youth hockey game Saturday at the Wonderland of Ice.

Fact or Fiction. A new twist on the Story Time theme...Fact or Fiction that it is a USA-H rule that organization must withhold its tryouts for Youth age classifications until at least 48hours after the USAH-Nationals? FICTION.

Fact or Fiction --- That violating the CEP regulations can lead to sanctions? FACT.

CEP / rostering. All coaches must be rostered. To qualify for proper registration, that coach must be certified at the appropriate level. Remember, that coaching cards are valid for a three (3) year period; afterwards they must be renewed. Registration of a coach only provides the assurance that the coach is covered under USA-H insurance. Registration or placing a name on a roster is not sufficient to qualify for credentialing purposes. Credentialing is necessary for advancing through Tournament play, and applies even at Tier-4.

Vice President (Jason Pniewski)

In Jason’s absence, Mike Meakem relayed a note that there is nothing significant to report as to the office of VP, but that in Jason capacity as Dist-II Commissioner, there is a Match penalty situation.

Treasurer (Mike Federico)

In Mike’s absence, Mike Meakem reported that collection of Tournament Fees are nearly complete. .

Secretary (Glenn Van Moffaert)

Glenn gave notice that the Tier-1 committee is considering further rule changes. These will be considered near the end of the meeting.

Grow the Game: Ken Dixon reports that things are moving along and he distributed a handout describing the mission as well as high-level points of emphasis. The mission statement is: “To recreate ice hockey in Connecticut by [providing a financially affordable, time sensitive, player focused experience in a fun and considerate environment.”. To fulfill this ambitious goal, Ken pointed to breaking old perceptions (like 4AM practices), debunking the “new” bad image of parents run amok, and building new relationships. Building new relationships means having EACH MEMBER PROGRAM commit itself to being an “Ambassador of the Game”. Please reach out to Ken for more information on the G-T-G initiative.

Another area of primary focus is affordability and cost containment. A survey is been drafted with the assistance of USA-H to query those who left the sport and understand the reasons behind their decision.

Another initiative with cost containment in mind is the use of x-ice format. However, some programs do not have the necessary equipment to fully take advantage of this style of teaching and play. One suggestion was for CHC to provide a subsidy to programs for x-ice dividers. A motion (seconded) was made that authorizes the CHC to subsidize the cost of intermediate-sized dividers, providing a 50% cost reimbursement (non-taxable portion) to each program for up to two (2) sets of dividers per program. The motion passed without objection.

Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)

Relatively quiet, with the usual general noise form the districts reporting as follows:

District Commissioner Reports

- District I No match penalties to report
- District II (Mike Meakem reporting) – one Match penalty against a player.
- District III no match penalties to report
- District-IV: No Match penalties to report

Registrar (Patty Garcia)

Patty reported that roster maneuvering is over! Travel team rosters are frozen; house teams rosters/registration can still be amended. Special caution for any program that has CANADIAN CITIZENS on its roster – special rules apply, so please reach out to PATy for guidance. With respect to late-date rostering of coaches, use the telephone to contact

Patty in an emergency! However, the process must begin through your local registrar, as Patty cannot initiate changes.

Girls (Joe Dymarczyk/Jacqueline DiNuccio)

Mailers for tryouts went out along with Festival / Development camp invitations. Sign-ups through March 10, and girls MUST pre-register: see website for most up-to-date details.

Coaching Director (Mike Powers)

Mike Meakem reported that Mike Powers will continue in this role for next season.

Referee in Chief (Randy Zaritsky)

Parents and coaches must refrain from calling Randy on his cell phone to contest a call they witnessed at the rink.

Tournaments (Brian Oatway) Tournaments are up and running: Congratulations to these champions: Wonderland Wizards, BA-T2;Mid-Fairfield as MT-Adams Division; Ridgefield, MT-Campbell Division; East Haven, Sq-T2

Shirt vendors are at each tournament site. Please make certain that your roster lists are given to the vendors at least one week prior to the event.

Team CT (Jim Lanza) tryouts, 94/95/96 weekend of Feb 17 posted to the website. For girls tryout placement will depend on the final number of girls trying out. Remember – NO LATE REGISTRATIONS; NO WALK-INS. Be mindful of who you send to tryout. This is not intended to be as an open-ice affair; send the best, as Team CT is looking for the best.

Team CT. (Jim Lanza)

In Jim's absence, Mike Meakem reported that, except for 1995, tryouts for Team-CT are finished. While the tryouts went well, improvements for next year include revising the timetable for tryouts. It is a CHC policy for Team-CT eligibility that it is open to any US Citizen, who is a CT-resident. A further qualification is the for 12/13yo Boys, the players must be from CHC Member Programs.

Tier-1

(A) Coordinating the timing of the Tier-1 tryouts with other Tiered-programs was discussed.

It was RESOLVED that T2/T3/T4 programs will not conduct their tryouts at the same time as T-1 for that age group. (BA, PW, SQ, MT). Tryouts for T-1 are to be made no sooner than 48 hours after the conclusion of the USAH-Regionals/Nationals, and must not extend past April 21.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED that with respect to binding commitments and money deposits, a player who accepted a position with a T2/T3/T4 program can opt-out and move to a T-1 program without penalty. The affected T2/T3/T4 program must waive the binding commitment and refund any program fee monies that it collected (other than a reasonable non-refundable tryout fee, if any) to the player, provided that the player notify the T2/T3/T4 program no later than five (5) days after the last of the Tier-1 tryouts.

(B) Tier-1 Rule proposal. A timely proposal was presented to change the structure of Tier-1 as follows:

Proposed Tier 1 Rule Changes

The Greenwich Blues have dropped out of Tier 1 beginning next season. Greenwich Blues will revert back to a Tier 2, 3, 4 program. The following rule change proposals are intended to retain as many players within the CHC at the Tier 1 and 2 levels as possible. The District boundaries will remain the same for the 2008 – 2009 season, and there will be three (3) Tier 1 teams (Mid-Fairfield, CT Wolves, and CT Clippers) from Squirt Minor through Bantam Major. The following four (4) rule proposed rule changes will be discussed:

1. The Northern District (the Clippers and the Wolves) will be allowed four (4) out of District players. The Southern District (Mid-Fairfield) will be allowed zero (0). Rational: In order to promote and accelerate the trend toward parity between the Tier 1 programs.
2. Players from Southern District who try out and do not make a Mid-Fairfield Tier 1 team can move to the Clippers or Wolves without counting toward the out of District quota. These players would be grandfathered there after until they've returned to a program within their District. Rational: Allow for displaced players (former Greenwich Blues or Mid-Fairfield players) to find a home within the CHC Tier 1 vs. the independent programs.
3. Three out of state players would be allowed per team. Rational: This is an increase of 1 from the previous limit intended to promote and accelerate the trend toward parity between the Tier 1 programs.
4. Three (3) maximum out of District grandfathered players per team for Mid-Fairfield comprised of grandfathered players from both the Greenwich Blues and Mid-Fairfield. Players would remain grandfathered until they returned to a program within their District. Rational: The grandfathering rule remains the same except to allow the displaced Greenwich Blue players' grandfather privileges to be assigned to Mid-Fairfield.

Discussion was made on these points, and debate ensued regarding the interpretation of whether out-of-state players are also considered in the tabulation as out-of-district players. There was also concern whether the displaced Greenwich players who may move to Mid-Fairfield are in addition to the limited number of out-of-district players. Since none of the Tier-1 Committee was present to answer directly, a motion (seconded) to postpone the question to next month in order to receive clarifying statement was approved by voice vote.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn (seconded) passed by unanimous voice vote. [10:05 p.m.]

NEXT MEETING:

March 25, 2008
7:30pm
Italian American Club
35 Chase Lane, West Haven.

/Attachment #1 to February 2008 minutes
Attendance Log

Program	Total Absences	April 2007	May	June	August Presidents' Meeting	September	October	November	December	January 2008	February
Avon	0										
Central	0										
CT Clippers	1				x						
CT Northern Lights	1			x							
CT Polar Bears	0										
CT Stars	2			x				x			
CT Wolves	0										
Darien	2		x							x	
East Haven	1		x								
ECHO	1		x								
Enfield	1			x							
Gr. Bridgeport	1								x		
Gr. New Haven	0										
Greenwich Blues	2			x							x
Greenwich Skate	1	x									
Griffin	4	x	x	x					x		
Hamden	0										
Kent	3	x	x	x							
Middlesex	2			x							x
Mid-Fairfield	0										
New Canaan	3	x	x						x		
Northeastern	1								x		
Northwestern	0										
Pawling	1								x		
Ridgefield	2	x	x								
Salisbury	7	x	x	x		x			x	x	x
Simsbury	3	x	x	x							
South Windsor	1	x									
Southeastern	1										x
Southern	1		x								
Stamford	1		x								
Wallingford	2		x	x							
Watertown	1			x							
West Hartford	2					x					x
West Haven	1					x					
Western	1	x									
Wonderland Wizards	2	x	x								
Yale	2			x							x